

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 041430Z NOV 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1304

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BANAKO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2356

SANAA SFF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AG

SUBJ: TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

1. SUMMARY. ALGIERS MORE OR LESS BACK TO NORMAL
FOLLOWING FOUR DAYS OF DISRUPTION OF SERVICES DUE TO
CELEBRATION TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION.

ALTHOUGH MAN IN STREET SEEMED ABLE CONTAIN HIS

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ENTHUSIASM, ALGERIAN LEADERSHIP APPEARED ENJOY OCCASION

AND EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CELEBRATION. END SUMMARY.

2. GOA WORKED HARD TO ORGANIZE NATION-WIDE CELEBRATIONS OF TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION NOVEMBER 1. TIMING OF RABAT SUMMIT MADE POSSIBLE IMPRESSIVE CARRYOVER OF ARAB HEADS OF STATE AND REPRESENTATIVES WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE COME (FEISAL AND SADAT AMONG OTHERS). TURNOUT OF OTHER VIP'S WAS SOMEWAHT DISAPPOINTING TO ALGERIANS. CASTRO, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN EXPECTED, DID NOT COME BUT SENT THREE STOUT MEN IN SHINY FATIGUES IN HIS STEAD. LISTED AS HEADS OF STATE IN ADDITION TO FEISAL AND SADAT WERE BOURGUIBA, AL-ASAD OF SYRIA, SHAYKH ZAYID OF ABU DHABI, OULD DADDAH, RUBA'I OF PDRY AND EL-HAMDI OF NORTH YEMEN, SAID BARRE OF SOMALIA, KOUNTCHE OF NIGER, TRAORE OF MALI AND PRINCE SIHANOUK. PRIMIN JELLOUD REPRESENTED LIBYA, PRIMIN OSMAN, MOROCCO, SADDAM HUSSEIN, IRAQ AND TAKIEDDIN SOLH, LEBANON. OTHERS WERE LOWER LEVEL. KUWAITIS, FOR EXAMPLE, SENT MINISTER OF STATE ABDUL AZIZ HUSSEIN; NORWEGIANS SENT DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRY; FRENCH, AUSTRIANS AND MANY OTHER SENT NO ONE. MOST COLORFUL FIGURE PRESENT WAS SPRY LITTLE SINAN ABU LUHUM OF YEMEN. MOST APPRECIATIVE OF EVENTS WAS MUSTAFA TLAS, SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO SEEMED BE IN MANIC PHASE ALL OF TIME. MOST POPULAR WAS YASIR ARAFAT, WHO WAS APPLAUDED EVERY TIME HE APPEARED. IN ALL, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY TWO (122) NATIONS WERE INVITED TO SEND DELEGATIONS AND WE ESTIMATE THAT OVER HALF OF THEM DID.

3. DELEGATIONS UNIVERSALLY UNHAPPY WITH CHAOTIC ARRANGEMENTS. THUS, ACCORDING EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, SADAT'S FIRST QUESTION ON GETTING OFF AIRPLANE WAS ABOUT PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL TWO-DAY VISIT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE AFTER CELEBRATIONS. WHEN INFORMED THAT NONE HAD BEEN PREPARED YET HE CANCELLED VISIT AND DECIDED LEAVE NOVEMBER 2, MORNING AFTER CELEBRATION OVER. THERE WERE GENERAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT QUALITY OF HOTEL SPACE PROVIDED, AND EVERYONE (INCLUDING ALGERIANS) UNWISE ENOUGH TO ATTEND MARATHON FOUR-HOUGLPM SHOWING IN HEATLESS SPORTS PALACE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 31 HAD VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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UNKIND WORDS TO SAY ABOUT ORGANIZERS.

4. HIGH POINT OF CELEBRATIONS WAS TWO-HOUR PARADE, WHICH STARTED TWO HOURS LATE, MORNING NOVEMBER 1. SOME 15,000 CIVILIANS AND TROOPS PARADED PAST TRIBUNE FILLED WITH DIGNITARIES WHILE BOUMEDIENE SAT SMOKING HIS HAVANA CIGARS AND MAKING "V" FOR VICTORY SIGN TO UNITS AND FLOATS HE LIKED. FEISAL, LOOKING VERY OLD AND

DRAWN, SAT GLUMLY ON HIS LEFT WHILE BOURGUIBA, HAPPILY HAMMED IT UP ON HIS RIGHT. LESSER DIGNITARIES, CONFUSED BY PROGRAM AND INABILITY TO UNDERSTANUIUOBIC, SAT TWITCHING IN COLD BREEZE. MILITARY UNITS MARCHED WELL. SOME LOOKED VERY FIT, E.G. CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE BUILDING TRANSAHARAN HIGHWAY. SOME OF OTHERS HAD NOTICEABLE PERCENTAGE UNDERNOURISHED AND FLAT-FOOTED. MAURITANIAN AND TUNISIAN CONTINGENTS OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEN EACH ALSO PARADED.

5. EVENING OF 1ST THERE WAS MAMOTH RECEPTION AT PALAIS DU PEUPLE, WITH ESTIMATED FIFTEEN HUNDRED (1500) DIGNITARIES, ALGERIAN AND FOREIGN, FILLING TWO LARGE HALLS, WHILE BOUMEDIENE AND HEADS OF STATE HAD MORE INTIMATE GATHERING IN SEPARATE SALO. RECEPTION WAS FOLLOWED, ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE, BY MIDNIGHT FIREWORKS DISPLAY, BUT MOST OF US TOO POOPED TO STAY UP.

6. MRS. BOUMEDIENE AND MINSTATE CHERIF BELKACEM APPEARED IN PUBLIC FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MONTHS. SEPTTEL)

7. THERE WERE RUMORS BOUMEDIENE WAS GOING ANNOUNCE NUMBER IMPORTANT DECISIONS, INCLUDING CABINET CHANGES AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 1. IN FACT, HOWEVER, HIS SPEECH AT PARADE WAS SHORT AND MERELY WELCOMED DELEGATIONS PLUS EXPRESSING ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR JUST CAUSES, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. THERE WAS NO OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPORTANCE DURING DAY AND WE ARE STILL WAITING. AS OF NOW IT APPEARS THAT MOST NOTEWORTHY ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE AUGMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT SALARIES (ALGIERS 2345) AND CALL FOR SUMMIT MEETING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCING STATES. PRESS SOURCE SAYS GOA WANTS CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE AT END OF NOVEMBER IN ALGIERS.

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8. NOTE: ALONE OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE, WE AND SWISS WERE NOT INVITED SEND DELEGATIONS TO CELEBRATION. ALGERIANS WERE STILL ANGRY WITH SWISS BECAUSE OF SWISS SUPREME COURT DECISION NOT TO RECOGNIZE GOA CLAIMS TO BANK DEPOSITS MADE BY FORMER FLN TREASURERE AHMED KHIDER. I WAS TOLD AT FOREIGN MINISTRY WE WERE NOT INVITED BECAUSE WE DID NOT HAVE RELATIONS. WE ASSUME ALGERIANS DID NOT FEEL THEY COULD INVITE US AND NOT SWISS. IT IS IRONIC THAT TWO COUNTRIES WHICH PLAYED SUCH IMPORTANT (AND FORMERLY APPRECIATED) ROLES IN ALGERIAN FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE WERE UNINVITED. PERHAPS WITH THIS IN MIND, ALGERIANS AT LAST MINUTE SENT INVITATIONS TO ALL EVENTS EXCEPT OCTOBER 30 DINNER TO SWISS CHARGE AND MY SELF.
PARKER

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